

**Congressional Report****Senate Votes Rules for Evidence**

The Senate passed yesterday, 69 to 0, a bill to establish uniform rules for the admissibility of evidence in federal courts.

The bill, which goes now to conference with the House, modifies rules proposed by the Supreme Court last year after 13 years of study and debate by judges, lawyers and members of Congress.

In the only contested issue, liberals lost, 38 to 33, an attempt to restrict the instances when a prosecutor can bring out a defendant's convictions, on grounds that such information was likely to prejudice the jury.

Sen. John L. McClellan (D-Ark.) successfully argued that such knowledge often was essential for the jury to evaluate the defendant's credibility.

**HEW Restriction**

Congressional conferees ordered the Department of Health, Education and Welfare not to spend federal funds to bring about mixed gym classes.

The conference report on the \$33 billion appropriation for the Labor Department and HEW says, "None of the funds ... are to be used to enforce the integration of physical education classes by sex."

The conferees also ordered HEW not to apply sex discrimination rules to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, Boys Clubs, Girls Club, YMCA, YWCA, high school and college fraternities and sororities and similar organizations.

The rules were drafted by HEW to enforce a 1972 law prohibiting sex discrimination in education.

HEW Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger commented that Congress should exempt the Scouts and other groups through amending the 1972 law. HEW officials said such an amendment appeared necessary to exempt physical education classes as well.

**Appropriations Bill**

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved a \$13.6-billion money bill for farm, consumer and environment programs. The bill provides \$176 million less than one vetoed by former President Nixon as inflationary.

The committee retained funds set by the Federal Trade Commission to obtain data from large companies relating to sales and profits of

individual products. Many businessmen oppose the program.

Also kept in the bill was a provision barring food stamps for a college student whose parents claim him as an income-tax deduction.

The Senate is to debate the bill Monday.

**Farm Labor**

The Senate passed by voice vote a new farm labor contractor registration bill, revised to meet objections raised by President Ford in vetoing a previous bill on Oct. 29.

The bill extends registration requirements to contractors operating within a single state, as well as those furnishing crews to employers in another state.

From staff reports and news dispatches